

A Writers' Arsenal

Inspiration and Getting Started: The Classics

Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott

Subtitled "Some Instructions on Writing and Life," Lamott's much loved book is a motivational and realistic look at the craft and business of writing—and practically required reading for prospective authors. **ON ORDER**

 **Writing Down the Bones** by Natalie Goldberg
Frequently used in advanced college courses, this writers' favorite teaches quality writing by example, and the mini essays indirectly provide writing prompts. **808 GOLD / R 808 GOLD**

Style Guides



The Elements of Style by William Strunk and E.B. White

The long-favored guide to style basics, concisely and somewhat wryly presented. It covers grammar, punctuation rules, word usage, and more. Necessary reading with much excellent advice, though some points should be taken with a grain of salt. Still, you need to know the rules before breaking them. **R 808 STRU / eAudiobook**



The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. by University of Chicago Press

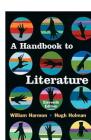
The Chicago Manual is the book industry's style bible. It covers all the details from grammar and punctuation (and I mean *every detail*) to proofreaders' marks and book layout. Other style guides—the Associated Press Stylebook, the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers—are used in more journalistic or scholarly writing. **R 808 CHIC**

Miscellaneous



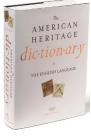
Writer's Guide to Places

by William Harmon and Hugh Holman
"One-of-a-kind reference for making the locales in your writing more authentic, colorful, and real."
917.3 PRU



A Handbook to Literature, 11th ed.

by William Harmon and Hugh Holman
A definitive reference on literature and literary theory. Useful in defining literary terms, distinguishing forms and genres, and pinpointing historical and literary periods. **R 808 HARM**



The American Heritage Dictionary, 4th ed. or *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed.*

Two of the publishing industry's most favored dictionaries.
R 423 AMER / 423 MERR

BULLITT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PATHFINDERS

Books, Movies, and More on Your Favorite Subjects

Arco How-To-Write Series

Step-by-Step Guides for Students and Professionals

How to Write and Deliver Effective Speeches by Judith McManus J 808.51 OTT

How to Write Articles for Newspapers and Magazines by Dawn Sova J 808 SOVA

How to Write Book Reports by Dawn Sova J 808 SOVA

How to Write Research Papers by Sharon Sorenson J 808 SORE

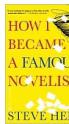
How to Write Short Stories by Sharon Sorenson J 808.3 SORE



Novels About Writing

The Anthologist by Nicholson Baker

An occasionally published poet writing the introduction to a new poetry anthology finds himself distracted by personal troubles till he starts considering the lives of the great poets and reveals poetry tips and tricks. **FIC BAKE**



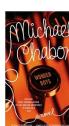
How I Became a Famous Novelist by Steve Hely

An aspiring novelist takes the cynical approach to writing the Great American Novel—he creates a mashup of the bestseller list and rakes in the cash when his "pile of garbage" debut becomes a hit. **FIC HELY**



Wintering by Kate Moses

A fictional yet fact-based portrayal of Sylvia Plath's post-divorce artistic fervor as she wrote *Ariel*, her last poetry collection, completed shortly before she committed suicide. **FIC MOSE**



Wonder Boys by Michael Chabon

An aging professor/novelist struggling to complete his endlessly revised 2,000-plus-page novel, his editor, and a promising young student engage in a weekend of darkly funny misadventures. **FIC CHAB**



The Writing Class by Jincy Willett

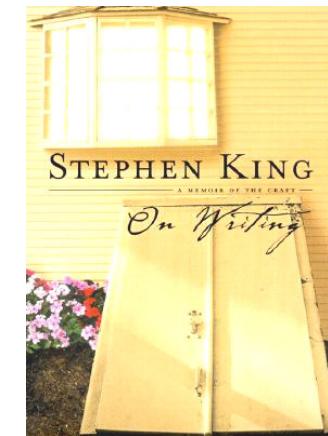
A once-promising novelist now teaching an adult extension course in writing fiction gets a wake-up call when a student is murdered. Her students become suspects and clues are hidden in their writing. **FIC WILL**



Old School by Tobias Wolff

A self-conscious but talented student at a 1960s prep school competes in writing contests for the honor of meeting literary icons like Robert Frost, Ayn Rand, and Ernest Hemingway. **J WOLF**

On Writing



On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

by Stephen King

B KING / CD BOOK KING / CAS A KING

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Understanding & Honing Your Craft

How
Fiction
Works
—
JAMES WOOD

How Fiction Works

by James Wood

Both a study of fiction-writing techniques and its elements, and a history of the novel. 808.3 WOOD



Reading Like a Writer: A Guide for People Who Love Books and for those Who Want to Write Them

by Francine Prose 808.02 PROS



Before We Get Started: A Practical Memoir of the Writer's Life

by Bret Lott
Encouragements and insights on writing and the publishing industry from a noted author. 813.54 LOTT



Pen on Fire

by Barbara DeMarco-Barrett

Inspiration and practical advice; covers specific aspects of writing, with short exercises. 808 DEMA

More Writing Guides



The Writer Within You

by Charles Jacobs

Guide geared toward retirees for writing, submitting, and marketing fiction and nonfiction in those areas/genres most popular among older adult authors. 808 JACO



On Writing Romance: How to Craft a Novel That Sells

by Leigh Michaels

A breakdown of romance subgenres and conventions, a guide to writing engaging characters and plot development, and tips on submitting your work. 808.3 MICH



How to Write a Mystery

by Larry Beinhart
An Edgar Award-winning author shares his secrets for writing a suspenseful mystery novel that will sell.

808.3 BEIN

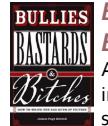


How to Write Killer Historical Mysteries

by Kathy Lynn Emerson

How to plan and write an historical mystery, with careful attention paid to making the most of your chosen setting.

808.3 EMER



Bullies, Bastards & Bitches: How to Write the Bad Guys of Fiction

by Jessica Page Morrell

Advice includes crafting believable villains, unlikeable yet intriguing protagonists, anti-heroes, and even "bad guys" specifically for younger readers. 808.3 MORR



Writing Tools: 50 Essential Strategies for Every Writer

by Roy Peter Clark

Lessons and "workshop" sections. 808.024 CLAR



The Plot Thickens: 8 Ways to Bring Fiction to Life

by Noah Lukeman

On using characterization, conflict, etc., to develop plot. 808.3 LUKE



The Artful Edit

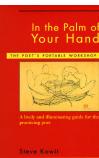
by Susan Bell
Lively guide on editing as you write. Tips and exercises, and a look at the processes of F. Scott Fitzgerald, Michael Ondaatje, Tracy Kidder, and Ann Patchett. 808 BELL



The First Five Pages

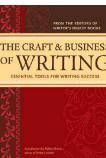
by Noah Lukeman

About much more than the first five pages; focuses more on the fundamental elements of good writing, with exercises. 808 LUKE



The Writer's Notebook: Craft Essays from Tin House

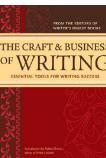
by Tin House
Best seminars from a prestigious writers' workshop. 808.2 WRIT



In the Palm of Your Hand

by Steve Kowit

"Portable workshop" that covers technical material in a conversational tone, with lots of practical exercises. 808.1 KOWI



The Craft & Business of Writing

by Writers' Digest Books

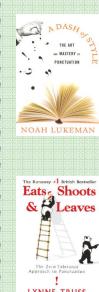
Tabbed sections covering business aspects and getting started, fiction, nonfiction, children's writing, and poetry. 808 CRAFT

Punctuation. Grammar. Style.

A Dash of Style: The Art and Mastery of Punctuation

by Noah Lukeman

Less a usage manual than a guide to using punctuation creatively and artistically to achieve rhythm and clarity. With classic examples. 428.2 LUKE



Eats, Shoots & Leaves

by Lynne Truss
This "Zero Tolerance Guide to Punctuation" is a must-read for sticklers, and a useful, well illustrated, and funny way (really!) for writers to understand the whys and wherefores of punctuation. 428.2 TRUSS



Things That Make Us [Sic]

by Martha Brockenbrough

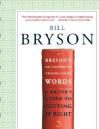
A snarky, irreverent guide to grammar and language that doesn't hesitate to call out high-profile language abusers, from actors to politicians. 428 BROC



The Little Red Writing Book

by Brandon Royal

Covers 30 common grammar rules and 20 principles of structure, style, and readability. 808.042 ROYA



Bryson's Dictionary of Troublesome Words

by Bill Bryson

A well-loved writer's guide to error-free usage. 423.1 BRYS

Writers' Resources Online

www.nanowrimo.org

November is National Novel Writing Month, and the goal of this program is to help you finish a 50,000 word (175 page) novel by November 30. There is also a Youth Writers Program, multiple writers' forums, and other fun stuff.

www.sfwa.org/beware

Writer Beware, part of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America website, warns about scams and pitfalls that target writers.

www.writersdigest.com

Articles, tips and prompts, getting published, and more.

agentquery.com

Features a searchable database of agents and publishers, plus tips and other resources.

[Literary Reference Center \(www.bclib.org\)](http://www.bclib.org)

From our homepage, click on Find Facts to access this searchable database. Get full-text articles from *Quill*, *Writing*, and *Writer* magazines and discover author interviews and more in other publications.

Getting Published



Give 'Em What They Want: The Right Way to Pitch Your Novel to Editors and Agents

by Blythe Cameson and Marshall J. Cook

364.15 UNIT



The Writer's Market

Listings for book publishers, magazines, literary agents, professional organizations, and contests. Also includes primers on writing query letters and freelancing.

R 808.035 WRIT 2010 / 808.025 WRIT 2010



Poet's Market

R 070.5 POET 2008



Children's Writer's & Illustrator's Market

070.5 POPE 2008



Christian Writers' Market Guide

R 070.5 CHRI 2008